

OPEN SPACE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MARCH 28, 2005

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March 28, 2005
7:30 p.m.

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m.

Chairperson Steward welcomed George Greb back to the Committee.

Present at the meeting were Chairperson Steward, Vice-Chair Greck and Committee members Donald Burgess, Joshua Feingold, George Greb, Casey Lee, and Toni Webb. Also in attendance was Urban Forester, Mike Orfanedes.

Present from the Town Council was Councilmember Susan Starkey, who arrived at 8:10 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 24, 2005

Vice-Chair Greck made a motion, seconded by Chairperson Steward, to approve the January 24, 2005 Minutes. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. (Motion passed 6-0)

3. OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Orfanedes advised that the Committee's comments had been incorporated into the EAR document. He also advised that a new planner in the Planning and Zoning department was handling the EAR, which was a few months away from submission. He felt the Committee had done a more than thorough job on providing its input.

Vice-Chair Greck requested that the Committee see the report at a later date to ensure its views were appropriately represented.

Chairperson Steward referred to recent comments regarding the possibility that some of Davie's prime open space could be sold in the future. Mr. Orfanedes did not feel these comments could be substantiated, and felt this would not make sense in light of the Town's goal to preserve open space. However, he indicated he would question this further with Town administration.

3.1 TOWN'S WEBSITE

Chairperson Steward postponed this discussion until the arrival of Braulio Rosa, who would speak on this item. Mr. Orfanedes distributed printed copies of a portion of the Town's website.

[Committee member Frances Steier arrived.]

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3.2 METHOD FOR OSAC INPUT AT DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

Chairperson Steward stated that the Committee had been trying for a long time to see new plans of developments coming into the Town before they were approved by the Planning and Zoning staff. She wanted the Committee to come up with the best way to review these plans. Mr. Orfanedes advised that the process first involved submission of plans to the Town, followed by a first review by planning staff. He advised that if the Committee wanted to provide input, it had to do so at the DRC meeting stage.

Mr. Greb stated that as long as the master plan was in place, staff should not miss any necessary features for the trail system. He felt the Town should ensure the master trail system plan was the way the Committee wanted it.

Vice-Chair Greck stated that one primary purpose of the Committee over the past year was to push for an updated master plan. She felt the trail system had been addressed piecemeal over the years. Mr. Greb stated that there was a master plan that was updated periodically.

[Committee member Dr. Christina Pellicane arrived.]

Dr. Pellicane felt that the Committee should ensure that the trail system was adhered to in the plans. Ms. Steier asked when the last master plan update was done. Mr. Greb advised the last update was 3-4 years ago. Vice-Chair Greck felt the Committee should address the comprehensive plan and identify where trails ought to be. Mr. Greb pointed out that the Town Council had the final say on all plans. Dr. Pellicane pointed out that in some instances trails went in differently from how the Committee recommended. Mr. Greb reminded the Committee that all final decisions came from the Town Council.

[Councilmember Susan Starkey arrived at the meeting.]

[Braulio Rosa arrived at the meeting.]

Ms. Webb suggested that language could be added stating, "if a parcel was developed, and a trail was within a certain distance of it, it had to be connected." Mr. Orfanedes stated this language was already included.

Ms. Lee asked Mr. Orfanedes if with his experience and familiarity with the OSAC's goals, he could represent the Committee and incorporate their goals at the DRC level. Mr. Orfanedes advised that with the volume of plans presented, there was no way one individual could do this. Ms. Lee also asked why Bruce Bernard was reviewing plans for trails. Mr. Orfanedes advised the Mr. Bernard's comments related to infrastructure roads, and public works functions.

Councilmember Starkey explained that Mr. Bernard had a vast knowledge of the Town and its philosophy, especially with regard to open space parks, trails and linkages; in addition, she stated that Mr. Bernard had history working on capital projects over the years. She added that the MacBroom right-of-way easement, linkages

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for the Math Igler site, and the Nardi easement, were projects Mr. Bernard had worked on. Ms. Lee stated that the Committee had never scrutinized the master plan in terms of identifying available parcels and missing linkages.

Councilmember Starkey spoke of past rural lifestyle initiative discussions, where open space parcels were identified with regard to FPL easements, which parcels were adjacent to canals, and other east-west connectors.

Mr. Greb felt it was important for the Committee to know who exactly would ensure the Committee's recommendations were represented at the development review stage.

Ms. Webb made a motion, seconded by Dr. Feingold, to recommend that at the Development Review Committee's first meeting, "the Development Services Project Planner evaluate each incoming project for concurrency with the Open Space Master Plan and potential connections to existing trails, sign off on such concurrences and transmit findings to the Town Council."

In a voice vote, all voted in favor. (Motion passed 9-0)

3.1 TOWN'S WEBSITE

Chairperson Steward referred the Committee to a printout of a West Palm Beach Parks and Recreation website, which she felt was well designed and easy to navigate. Vice-Chair Greck commended Braulio Rosa on the Town's website and on the Open Space feature. Chairperson Steward felt the Town's parks were still not publicized enough. Mr. Rosa indicated he would research older information that was on the Town's website a few years ago. Chairperson Steward pointed out that the Committee's Minutes were not posted on the website, while other advisory board minutes were. Mr. Rosa indicated he would speak with Mr. Muniz to ensure this was done.

3.3 UPDATE ON OPEN SPACE BOND REFERENDUM - TPL

Chairperson Steward asked the Committee if they were aware that the Trust for Public Lands (TPL) had been retained by the Town to do a study with respect to the Open Space Bond Referendum. Mr. Orfanedes explained that the TPL had conducted a draft feasibility study and given a presentation before the Council. He distributed copies of a questionnaire intended to be used in a TPL public opinion survey for the bond referendum, and asked for the Committee's review.

Councilmember Starkey advised that the Town was looking for input from the Committee on the survey questions, not for answers to the questions. She advised that the survey would be randomly conducted. Mr. Orfanedes felt the proposed Open Space Bond was the most exciting issue for some time in Davie. Ms. Webb asked if the survey was meant for a particular group. Mr. Orfanedes explained that the exercise was designed to "fish for what to put in the survey".

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Dr. Feingold questioned the purpose of the committee's review of the questionnaire. Mr. Orfanedes advised that feedback on what questions to use in the survey was needed. Dr. Feingold requested further information about who designed the survey. In response, Councilmember Starkey advised that the Town had hired the TPL to participate in the bond referendum process. She stated that the TPL would bring credibility to the process as it was a nationally recognized service in acquiring and conserving public lands and spaces. Dr. Feingold felt that while the concepts presented in the questionnaire were excellent, the questions were cumbersome and would involve too much time. He felt the wording should be geared toward the general public. Councilmember Starkey advised the survey would be conducted by telephone.

Mr. Orfanedes requested that the Committee provide feedback on the questions to him during the week.

3.4 REVIEW OF CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROPOSED BUDGET ITEMS

Mr. Orfanedes spoke of three trail connections identified and advised that the Town had put in for three missing bridges on the south side, budgeted for about \$40,000 each.

Vice-Chair Greck referred to a document titled Capital Improvements Projects 2005-2009 that was presented to the Board previously. She stated that some projects being discussed were not represented in this document and asked where they could be found. Mr. Orfanedes stated he was not sure why some projects were budgeted in some fiscal years and not others. Mr. Orfanedes asked the Committee to think about items of concern throughout the year.

Vice-Chair Greck spoke of the horse trail across the south end of Long Lake Ranches from Majestic Groves to Hiatus tying into Robbins Lodge. Chairperson Steward requested a paved connection from the end of the now-paved trail in Long Lake to the entrance of Robbins Lodge.

Councilmember Starkey advised that the Town had tried to get Home Dynamics to pay to link the trail on the east side of Parcel C along to Linear Park, but that this was unsuccessful. Chairperson Steward stated that only a small strip of paving was needed for the access portion into Robbins Lodge; she stated that even as an unfinished trail, this was heavily used.

Councilmember Starkey also suggested that Mr. Orfanedes look further into this, and indicated she would keep this "on the radar for capital improvements."

3.5 DAVIE AREA LAND TRUST UPDATE

Chairperson Steward advised that the Davie Area Land Trust was looking for members. Vice-Chair Greck recommended that some of the brochures be placed in the Town Clerk's office. Mr. Orfanedes advised that the organization needed to grow. He advised that the Trust had finished applying for its 501(C)3 status and was incorporated

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in fall, 2004. He added that the proposed bond referendum made this a critical year for the Trust.

Chairperson Steward advised that meetings were held the first Monday of each month at Robbins Lodge at 7:00 p.m. and on the second and fourth Tuesdays, at 11:45 a.m. in the Community Room at Davie Town Hall.

Councilmember Starkey commended Mr. Orfanedes and Marcie Nolan for their efforts and participation in the Land Trust. Vice-Chair Greck also thanked Mr. Orfanedes and Marcie Nolan. Councilmember Starkey pointed out that by the time the Land Trust earned its 501 (C) 3 status and the ability to fundraise, the Town could have already implemented its open Space Bond issue, because of the time involved in setting up the trust. She stated that the Town was in a great acquisition phase and had to keep the momentum. She also spoke of the time constraints of many Town employees who were spread thin.

Ms. Lee asked about Sigars Nursery. Vice-Chair Greck indicated the details were being worked out.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 FUTURE OSAC MEETINGS – TIME AND LOCATION

Chairperson Steward recalled the Committee's previous discussion about meeting times. She advised that she had met with Mr. Kutney, who explained that time and budget constraints prevented the Committee from adding more meetings. She advised that Mr. Kutney had suggested 6:00 p.m. at Town Hall as a new meeting time and location. Dr. Feingold felt the frequency of meetings, and not necessarily the time, was important. Dr. Feingold, Ms. Webb and Mr. Greb indicated that 6 p.m. was not a convenient time.

Chairperson Steward suggested appointing an additional liaison to relieve Mr. Orfanedes in terms of his involvement with the Board. Councilmember Starkey pointed out that Mr. Orfanedes was the staff member participating in the Davie Land Trust and was spread to the limit. Councilmember Starkey suggested looking at forming a fact-finding sub-committee to bring options back to the Committee on certain issues. Dr. Feingold asked for clarity on the Sunshine Law and sub-committees. Councilmember Starkey explained that sub-committees were allowed under the auspice of fact finding, as long as ~~voting was not discussed~~ opinions on matters to be voted on were not discussed.

Mr. Orfanedes stated that to his observation, this Committee held a lot of discussion and did not pass many motions. Vice-Chair Greck recommended that the bond referendum be looked at by a sub-committee formed to monitor its progress.

Chairperson Steward asked the Committee members if any had time to gather information on a sub-committee level. Dr. Feingold and Ms. Webb indicated they

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would have some time in summer. Ms. Steier indicated she was available. Mr. Greb indicated he had time in the evenings. Ms. Lee suggested delegating certain topics to different committee members.

Councilmember Starkey recommended that sub-committee members meet with Bruce Bernard and Marcie Nolan, who would have information on the rural lifestyle initiative, the EAR, and information on projects or parcels for connectivity.

Ms. Lee suggested that all members get a copy of the master plan, review it and provide comments at the next meeting. Chairperson Steward asked that each member take a section of the community to focus on. Ms. Lee requested a poll on the 6 p.m. meeting time suggested earlier. Mr. Greb, Ms. Webb, Dr. Feingold, Dr. Pellicane indicated this time was difficult. Mr. Burgess, Ms. Steier and Chairperson Steward indicated this time was suitable for them.

The Committee members agreed to keep the current meeting time.

Mr. Orfanedes pointed out that committee members could also email specific questions or issues to him or to Bruce Bernard.

Councilmember Starkey advised that the Davie website had a “Talk to Us” link which required a 24-hour response to concerns or requests. Ms. Lee indicated she had used this numerous times and questioned the time frame for correction of problems, as her complaints were not addressed. Ms. Lee complained about the condition of Town rights-of-ways on State Road 84 at Griffin Road in comparison to those of Cooper City. Councilmember Starkey advised that the Town was seeking grant funding for roadway improvements for all entryways from State Road 84. She also advised that the Town would apply for Broward Beautiful and other grants for these projects.

Mr. Orfanedes spoke of poor installation and poor maintenance of trees by subcontractors, which caused these problems. Ms. Lee also spoke of lush landscaping on 136th Avenue in Sunrise, Plantation, and Cooper City, compared to Davie’s strip, where plants were dying or in poor condition. Ms. Lee felt the Town should have developers beautify the rights-of-ways. Mr. Orfanedes felt subcontractors needed to be trained and certified, held accountable and evaluated annually.

The Committee members all agreed to set up a sub-committee to focus on researching and reviewing the Master Plan.

4.2 TRAIL REVIEW

Chairperson Steward spoke of 73rd Avenue south of Griffin Road, which needed a trail from Wolf Lake. Chairperson Steward added that the Sunny Lake site had no access along 58th Avenue or Griffin Road. She also advised that FPL had to work with the tenants of the property which FPL leases under temporary use agreements with regard to establishing east-west connectivity.

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Vice-Chair Greck read aloud from correspondence she had received from FPL indicating agreements with lessors in these temporary use agreements “could be modified at will by FPL.”

Chairperson Steward spoke of dangerous conditions at 58th Avenue where there were small sections of unconnected paved sidewalk. She also spoke of the 30-foot recreational easement at McCall’s Nursery that went nowhere.

Vice-Chair Greck reiterated that the Committee needed to identify a sub-committee to work on the Master Plan. She indicated that she had a flexible schedule in the daytime and could work with Ms. Steier on this.

4.3 MINUTES ON WEBSITE

This item was already discussed.

4.4 BROWARD COUNTY GREENSHADE GRANT

Mr. Orfanedes advised of a \$15,000 Greenshade Grant available for tree replacement. He advised that one grant per municipality with a \$7,500 match was available, and that applications were due May 6. He asked the Committee for suggestions where replacement trees were needed. He also stated that Town staff would apply for the grant and would consider the Committee’s recommendations.

Dr. Feingold made a motion, seconded by Mr. Burgess, to encourage the Town to apply for the Greenshade Grant for the purpose of providing more trees in Davie, with the condition that the applicant provide or arrange for another entity to provide appropriate locations for the trees and with the condition that planting be done in the wet season.

In a voice vote, all voted in favor. (Motion passed 9-0)

5. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

Vice-Chair Greck spoke of the need for signage regarding which paved trails could be accessed by individuals who used carts.

Vice-Chair Greck also requested that consideration be given to some kind of ADA-consistent policy, or some kind of signage, or some information provided in the *Trails Guide* that indicated which trails were handicapped accessible.

Vice-Chair Greck felt where some trails were concerned, the 10-foot width standard might need to be re-evaluated as bike paths and landscaping eventually altered the end result intended.

Ms. Webb requested that multi-use trails not be paved trails down the middle.

Vice-Chair Greck asked if the Committee’s feedback on the TPL feasibility study was needed. Mr. Orfanedes indicated this would be welcome but was needed during the week.

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Chairperson Steward asked Mr. Orfanedes to keep the Committee informed by email. Chairperson Steward recapped the Committee's discussion as follows:

- 1) The committee members would review the TPL questionnaire and provide input, and
- 2) The Committee would review the Master Plan for Trails independently.

6. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to discuss, Mr. Greb made a motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Greck, to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 p.m. In a voice vote, all voted in favor. (Motion carried 5-0)

Approved

Chairperson/Committee Member